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FEBRUARY 11, 2021

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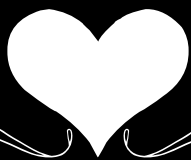
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letters

FIRE ISN'T THE ONLY THREAT TO THE MCKENZIE

Taylor Griggs' article "Salmon in Smoke" (*EW*, 2/4) does a commendable job covering the impacts that have pushed McKenzie River salmon runs to the brink of extinction. Missing from the analysis, however, are the long-standing cumulative consequences of housing and logging practices not only on the McKenzie but in watersheds statewide that destroy the habitat and water quality necessary for all creatures to survive.

Long before the Holiday Farm Fire burned through the McKenzie corridor, an inadequate and unenforced riparian ordinance has allowed dwellings and other intrusions whose owners have removed native vegetation, introduced invasive species such as English ivy and planted lawns to the river's edge maintained by leaching fertilizers and herbicides.

Toxic ash from chemicals embedded in burned structures have doubtless made their way in the winter rains into a river already corrupted by algae blooms induced by herbicides, fertilizers and failed septic tanks that cover the spawning gravels of the fewer exhausted salmon who manage to survive their long journey from the ocean every year.

In order for salmon to survive as a species the myriad intrusions impacting the McKenzie and other watersheds must be addressed with comprehensive legislation, including a revised Oregon Forest Practices Act, that disallows any impediments to the natural function of watersheds. Whether old or new, however, any regulation is only as good as its enforcement, and Lane County's riparian ordinance, for one, is not being enforced.

A river once an icon of beauty, purity and pride is dying. Its resurrection is in our hands.

Robert Emmons
Fall Creek

THE GOVERNOR'S COVID WIND

Regarding Gov. Kate Brown's vaccine decision to continually defer critical distribution to and thereby frankly sacrifice elderly — after she got hers, of course — and despite her own stats that 90-plus percent of the ongoing COVID-19 deaths are in the elderly, ie. 65 or more years old, in many cases the same ages of the parents of those she keep giving preferential treatment to, she needs to hear and hear again and be called to answer the still timely and

wise lament of Bob Dylan in his classic, "Blowing in the Wind":

Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til she knows

That too many people have died?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind...

Yes, indeed, the number of deaths of those being sacrificed by her totally unvetted agendas will be borne by those so greater at risk bumped by those so much less — my own parents included.

Robert D. Lowry
Eugene

WORKERS SHOULD GET SHOTS FIRST

If vaccines were distributed according to common sense instead of identity politics, farmers, field hands, food producers, garbage haulers and the people who work in and manage electricity, natural gas, fuels, water, sewage and garbage disposal systems would be at the top of the list — regardless of race, color or creed. They are the most important people in our society along with truck drivers, road, grocery, medical workers and teachers.

Everyone else currently in the workforce should have second tier priority while the elderly, retired, and non-pro-

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Notice of Planned Budget Committee Meetings

The City of Eugene and Eugene Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee is preparing to provide its recommendations on the FY22 budget to the City Council. The Budget Committee wants your help in setting funding priorities for our community. Please join the Budget Committee at its planned upcoming meetings to learn more and speak about your priorities.

Due to Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order to combat the spread of COVID-19, all Budget Committee meetings will be held virtually. Information about how to access meetings, provide public comment, and obtain meeting materials is available at www.eugene-or.gov/BudgetCommittee.

Capital Improvement Program and Financial Condition Update
Thursday, February 18, 2021
5:30 p.m.

City Manager's Presentation on FY22 Proposed Budget
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Budget Committee Deliberation and Public Comment on FY22 Proposed Budget
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 • 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 • 5:30 p.m.

Budget Committee Public Hearing, Deliberation, and Action on FY21 Proposed Budget
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 • 5:30 p.m.



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 **FRI: PRE-ROLLS**

 **SAT: DABS**

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letters

ductive wait their turn. Elvis impersonators, motivational speakers, athletes and other entertainers should be last.

*Greg Williams
Noti*

millions of Americans today and in the future. I wholeheartedly support the proposed National Wild & Scenic designation. Thank you, Sen. Wyden!

*Robin Hostick
Eugene*

PROTECTING OREGON'S RIVERS

I'm a professional artist and fourth generation Oregonian. Like many Americans, I have a special relationship with the natural beauty of our wild places. For me, our wild rivers are a timeless and priceless source of inspiration, and it is my life's work to express and share that inspiration with others.

Sen. Ron Wyden's proposal to extend the National Wild & Scenic designation to more Oregon rivers will help preserve the qualities that make Oregon, and America, a place of enduring beauty and inspiration. There is something so raw and compelling about free-flowing water cascading through the mountains and valleys toward the sea that defines our land and our people. The crystal clean water, the deep forests that clean our air and the wild creatures that inhabit these wild places enrich us all.

It's impossible to place a value on the thousands of blissful hours my family has spent on and around these waters for generations. By choosing preservation, we can secure that opportunity for

BUSH WHACKER

It matters today that George W. Bush was never elected president. We would not have Chief Justice John Roberts nor Justice Samuel Alito. Instead, we would have liberal judges and a liberal court majority.

Michael Connell was in control of the Ohio vote count for the 2004 presidential election. He stole that count for Bush. The Ohio "count" gave Bush the presidency.

While on his way to expose the vote fraud to the press, including the *Columbus Free Press*, he was apparently murdered. He was an accomplished pilot. The wreckage of the crash that killed him was cleaned up at night against protocol.

Please Google the *Columbus Free Press* and Michael Connell. There is the truth of one of the two stolen Bush presidential elections.

*Kevin Russell
Eugene*

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- Whilamut Citizen Planning Committee (4 openings)

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All application materials must be received by Friday, March 12. Applications should be submitted online at www.eugene-or.gov/bcc

You Never Give Me Your Money

EUGENE'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PAYROLL TAX CAUSES FRUSTRATION FOR BUSINESSES

By Taylor Perse

It's more than a month into the new year, tax season is getting closer and the new payroll tax for Eugene workers is here and still raising eyebrows.

The city's Community Safety Payroll Tax went into effect on Jan. 1, but businesses are still facing obstacles in getting the tax up and running. City staff say they are working to address the issues.

Accounting software needed to administer it is still not available, and the complexity of the tax makes it difficult to implement manually, putting a strain on business owners and payroll accountants during the pandemic.

Adopted in June 2019, the Community Safety Payroll Tax was designed to raise additional money to pay for police and other safety initiatives. The tax was unpopular among many community members who did not want to use their paychecks to fund more police in Eugene, and the Eugene City Council was criticized for passing the ordinance without putting it on the ballot and allowing voters to have a say.

Rachel McCoy is an accounting assistant with Schapiro CPA. She says she has encountered a number of issues with the city's payroll tax in the last six weeks.

The main problem is the software used by employers and accountants to complete payroll, McCoy says. Many businesses use Intuit products, specifically the QuickBooks program. She explains there are a few options: A business can use the online or desktop version of QuickBooks, which allows for the manual creation of additional tax items. But, she says, the payroll tax isn't simple to add in and is easy to mess up if you don't understand it.

"Since the tax is difficult, it puts a lot of responsibility

on the employer to make sure they are programming correctly," McCoy says.

The online version is not helpful, either. McCoy says that as of early February, Intuit had not developed the software to compute Eugene's unique tax. When the new software does become available, a basic subscription won't cover it, meaning employers will have to pay to update their systems.

Another complication with the tax, McCoy explains, is its varying rates that depend on income. If your gross wages are within a certain bracket, you pay one rate, but if you make more than usual during a pay period due to more hours or bonuses, you may have to move to a higher tax bracket. Manually adjusting the tax each pay period creates more work for business owners, she says.

"If you have somebody who makes \$15 an hour, but they vary between 30 and 35 hours a week, some weeks they might be subject and other weeks they were not subject. Each pay period you have to calculate gross wages and then tax on that," she says.

Adam Morrison, the senior payroll tax analyst for the city of Eugene, says he knows that the QuickBooks software isn't up to date. Morrison is working directly with QuickBooks, he says, and they will support the tax, though they are running behind due to "programming bugs." Eugene is not the only city facing tax software delays, he adds.

"Unfortunately we do not have any additional information," Morrison says. "That is between QuickBooks." He says people can call or email the city's helpline to receive help from the city.

Once people get the hang of the tax, he explains, it should become smoother. For the next two financial quarters, Morrison says the city has waived the late filing and pay penalty.

"We were aware of COVID, and were aware this would have an effect on employers out there. As well we knew this was a new tax and has complexities to it that are not similar to other taxes," Morrison says.

Some local business owners are still frustrated by the delay. Mark Kosmicki, the owner of Party Downtown, a restaurant and bar in Eugene, says the city should have ensured that major bookkeeping companies would have the software to support the tax.

And once the QuickBooks software does support the payroll tax, Kosmicki says, the employees will "take a hit" because he will need to retroactively take out the tax.

Even when the updated software becomes available for Kosmicki, he says the fluctuating rate schedule adds another frustrating variable.

"If you make a certain amount of money you pay one rate, and then if you make a different amount of money, it changes. It's not something that's an easy equation you can do yourselves," he explains. "It's a lot more work."

Kosmicki says the city should have put off implementing the tax and that it was shortsighted to tax people and businesses who may be struggling due to the pandemic. "Plus," he says, "we don't need more police. I'm sure no one is looking forward to having more money taken out of their checks for police." ■

For questions regarding the Community Safety Payroll Tax email CSPayrollTaxHelp@Eugene-or.gov or call 541-682-5053.

Ivory Irene McCuen: 1990-2021

SHE WAS THE SECOND HOMELESS PERSON KNOWN TO DIE IN EUGENE IN 2021

By Emily Topping

Ivory Irene McCuen died Jan. 24 on the streets of Eugene. She was 30.

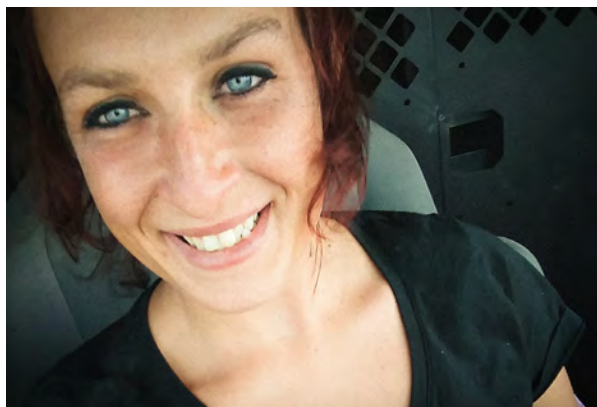
She was found outdoors in a parking lot near West 17th Avenue and Chambers Street in a severely hypothermic state and died en route to the hospital.

McCuen was raised in Crane, a small town in eastern Oregon's Harney County, alongside her older sister, Breezy Smith. She loved art and music and could often be heard singing around the house, her family says. McCuen was known for her loving and accepting nature, and often told those around her how "wonderful and beautiful" they were.

She attended Oregon City High School for a period of time before later obtaining her GED. In recent years, she attended Lane Community College in hopes of becoming a counselor.

McCuen battled mental health problems from a young age. Her sister recalls her complaining of "voices in her head" as a child, later discovered to be the result of schizoaffective disorder. She became homeless two years ago, after living with a boyfriend in Eugene and struggling to hold down a job or housing due to her mental health issues.

McCuen checked herself into the hospital on Jan. 10,



'SHE WAS WORTH MORE. WHEN WE SEE PEOPLE IN THE STREET, YOU HAVE TO KNOW THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS, WITH PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM.'

— Breezy Smith, McCuen's sister

seeking help for hallucinations. Her sister, Smith, laments that she was not contacted.

"She was worth more," Smith says. "When we see

people in the street, you have to know they are human beings, with people who love them."

While McCuen's family tried to assist her, often leaving groceries for pick up at local stores, it was difficult to contact her during periods of psychosis. When McCuen last spoke to her family, in early January, she seemed hopeful and open to change.

McCuen's message to the world could be described as "You are worth it," her sister says. She hoped to help others overcome their demons and find beauty in life.

McCuen is survived by her 9- and 11-year-old sons, Mykelti and Kilian, described as the lights of her life; her older sister, Breezy Smith; and her mother and stepfather, Cathy and Charles Youngblood.

A celebration of life will be held in Harney County at 1 pm March 13, her 31st birthday, at Burns Christian Church, 125 South Buena Vista Avenue, Burns. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to White Bird's crisis team, CAHOOTS. ■

Ivory McCuen is the second person known to have died while homeless in Lane County in 2021. Eugene Weekly seeks to run obituaries for every homeless person we learn of who dies here this year. We are still at work on an obituary for Hazel Dai, who died in Eugene Jan. 8. Please contact Editor@EugeneWeekly.com if you are aware of an unhoused person who has passed. We hope there are no more such stories to do.

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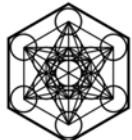
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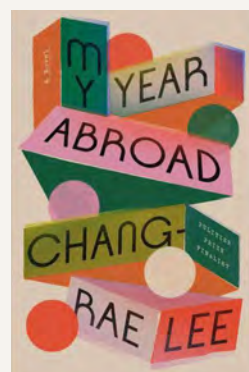
• The Blackberry Pie Society, that terrific organization that defines itself as "dedicated to promoting good politics and great people in East Lane County and beyond and having fun while doing it," sends out important action alerts to its members. **The Feb. 7 alert tells us about a bill in the Oregon Legislature "you may want to comment on."** The bill is HB2184; it would provide interest-free loans to school districts and mass transit districts for purchase of electric buses. Thank you, Blackberry Pie Society, we do want to comment on that one.

• **February is Black History Month**, and our annual reminder that Black history is more than ever could be encompassed in the shortest month of the year. Head over to NAACPLaneCounty.org for events this month, such as the Feb. 12 "COVID 19 Vaccine and the Black Community! Minority Quality Forum," and to support their work all year.

• When people die homeless in Lane County, as 30 did last year, the rest of us might notice the numbers — but rarely do we know anything about them as individuals. Were they old? Young? Did they once go to school, have a job, get married, have kids? **EW wants to note each homeless person's death in 2021 by reporting and writing an obituary.** In this issue we run the first of those stories, following the Jan. 24 death of Ivory McCune. She was the second person we know of to die homeless here this year; we are still researching the life of Hazel Dai, who died Jan. 8.

• It's cold outside, but that doesn't stop us from loving the new ice cream shop in town, **Handel's Homemade Ice Cream.** The new shop dropped off two of its creations at EW's office: Oree-Dough, filled with delicious chunks of Oreo cookie, and Chocolate PB Brownie, which had oozing veins of peanut butter. The ice cream shop will have its grand opening celebration from Friday, Feb. 12, through Sunday, Feb. 14, at the brand new 5th Street Market Alley.

• **"Delivering on the American Dream: The Promise of Affordability" is the subject of the City Club of Eugene program this Friday.** The second in a three-part series on local housing issues, this will feature speakers Jeff Albanese, MSW; Anne Fifield, city of Eugene; and Dylan Lamar, Cultivate Inc. This program will air on the City Club's Facebook and YouTube pages starting at noon Feb. 12, and the link will be on their website shortly after. The program also airs on KLCC 7pm Monday, Feb. 15.



• **What we are (planning to be) reading:** Chang-Rae Lee's sixth book *My Year Abroad*. We are just cracking the novel open after reading all the long, glowing reviews. Some longtime *Eugene Weekly* readers may remember that Chang-Rae Lee came to the University of Oregon in the early 1990s to earn his MFA, and while here he wrote *Native Speaker*, which was the manuscript for his master's thesis.

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The Blue's Dues

AFTER A HISTORIC YEAR OF PROTESTS RELATED TO POLICING,
OREGON LEGISLATORS DISCUSS REFORM BILLS

By Henry Houston

During 2020, Black Lives Matter-related protests throughout the U.S. called for police accountability and reform after Minneapolis police officers killed George Floyd. In Oregon, protests occurred near daily in Portland and frequently in Eugene.

With the Oregon Legislature's 2021 regular legislative session underway, legislators on the Equitable Policing subcommittee are drafting bills that would address policing — such as making police accountable through state lawsuits, regulating crowd control munitions, creating a database of police force and including crisis intervention in police basic training.

And although it's in another committee, one bill sponsored by Rep. Janelle Bynum of Clackamas would increase the number of BIPOC mental health providers. She says the concept is supported by many Oregonians, including law enforcement.

Bynum, who is the subcommittee's chair, says she has the votes to pass whatever she wants regarding police reform, but she wants to pursue a measured approach. "Good policy doesn't mean that you just wield your power any way that you wish," she says. "Good policy means you examine things with the best information you have at the time, you have as many people at the table as reasonably possible and you try to hear different voices."

Bynum says House Bill 2928, which could regulate crowd control munitions such as tear gas, was drafted in response to community feedback to her office after many residents in Portland dealt with the effects of police tear gas. As written now, it would regulate the use of chemical incapacitants, kinetic impact projectiles and sound devices by law enforcement. This includes tear gas, rubber bullets and the LRAD sound cannon.

"The question I'm trying to answer is: What is safe, what is just and what is the collateral damage when you utilize munitions?" Bynum says. She says she heard from police who said munitions were used to avoid "lethal uses of force."

Use of crowd control munitions during 2020's Black Lives Matter and other social justice protests in Portland and Eugene "caused far more damage than it was worth," she adds.

What Bynum says she wants to do is find ways to address crowd management so interactions between police and protesters don't result in escalation, ending in an angry group of people or an opportunity for someone to take advantage of the protesters and cause confusion.

Bynum says while there are Oregonians who want police to recognize their right to protest, there are others in the state who support law enforcement. She says she acknowledges that police officers are in tough situations when protesters throw objects at them. At the same time, when working with police unions, she says she works with the idea of elevating their profession.

"If there is something in the contract that does not support the elevation of the profession, then for me it's not something I want to continue with," she says. "I can't tell them what to do, but I think they're finding it harder and harder to defend protection that allows them to hurt people or get away with hurting people."

Rep. Marty Wilde, who represents the rural and urban parts of Lane and Linn counties, is on the subcommittee. He's sponsored HB 2934, which removes qualified immunity and increases damages for civil action due to police misconduct.

Wilde says the Brian Babb case influenced him to draft this legislation. On March 30, 2015, after shooting his pistol and calling his therapist, Eugene police showed up to Babb's house armed and in a BearCat armored vehicle. They shot and killed Babb, who was armed and feeling suicidal. Wilde says the Babb case illustrates shortcomings in the system.

The family filed a federal lawsuit because the \$769,000 cap in state court would have been an undervaluation of Babb's life, he says. Federal court requires proof of intent and state court needs proof of negligence. The family lost the suit.

"When you look at the bigger picture in the Babb

case, there were a lot of mistakes," he says. "If you were looking back and saying, was there a proximate cause for negligence? Yes, dropping the counselor from the phone call, that was clearly negligence."

With his bill, if there is a judgement for excessive force, the case is then sent to the state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPST) to see if there was negligence and intent.

The subcommittee is still discussing how it's going to use data to deal with police accountability, Wilde says. One bill would create a "bad boy" list, he says, designed to ensure police officers who are fired for poor conduct don't flee to another city. Then there's a database that catalogs all use of force for study purposes to see patterns. Somewhere in the middle, he adds, is having law enforcement in Oregon report data to the FBI, which tracks more serious uses of force.

Sponsored at the request of Gov. Kate Brown's office, HB 2162 directs the DPST to study changes to police officer training. Wilde says the bill's language is still being worked on, but he'd like to see more crisis intervention training and an additional weeklong training on mental health as part of basic training. "I'd also like to see the implicit bias training. It's already an option I think for supervisory personnel, but I'd like to see it for all personnel," he says.

Bynum says her bill to increase the number of BIPOC mental health workers is her signature bill. She says the concept of HB 2949 is supported by many — from activists to police. The bill would use general fund money to provide scholarships for undergraduate students, stipends for graduate students, loan repayments and up to \$15,000 in student loan forgiveness.

"It really is an opportunity for us to finally address what's been lacking for so long in Oregon, which is access to mental health care," Bynum says. "In terms of how we respond to the epidemic, to racial strife, to wildfires, mental health response is at the core of what we should be doing." ■



HAPPENING PEOPLE

by Paul Neevel

Linda Hamilton

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 18, the Eugene Human Rights Commission presented its annual Human Rights Award to Linda Hamilton, a 30-year resident of Eugene who has served on more than 20 local educational and governmental boards and committees. "I call it community civic engagement," she says, "being at the table to drive the change you need around equity. I'm usually the only Black person on those boards." Hamilton was the seventh of 12 children in her family, growing up in the bayous of northeast Louisiana. "My mom, Fannie Akins, was Cherokee and Black," she says. "We all called her Madea. Dad hunted alligator, turtle, rabbit, duck and deer. We grew sugar cane, watermelon, collard greens, and raised chickens, hogs and cows." By age 12, Linda wanted out. "I was scared," she recalls. "I saw young girls getting pregnant. Kids dropped out to work in the fields." She saw her chance at age 15, when her uncle and cousin from Las Vegas came to visit. "I packed my stuff in a brown paper bag," she says. "We told my mother that

I'd be back." Instead, she wound up living with her aunt, her mom's baby sister, in Salem, Oregon. She was the only Black person in her 1985 McKay High School graduating class. "I got a lot of attention," she recalls. "People were so accepting, loving and kind." She studied criminal justice at Chemeketa Community College, but left to pursue real-life experience as a store detective: Nordstrom's sent her to its flagship Portland store. She went from there to the Oregon Department of Corrections, where she was one of the first women to work in an all-male maximum security prison, the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem. In 1996, she was promoted to correctional counselor/parole and probation officer in Eugene, where she lives with her husband, Senior State Trooper Rick Hamilton, and where they raised their daughter, Tiwana. In 2015, she was elected to an at-large position on the Lane Education Service District Board of Directors. "I got an award from the University of Oregon," she notes, "for juggling the most meetings!"

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LOVE & SEX

DATING QUICKIES

CROWDSOURCING EW'S LOVE AND SEX ISSUE

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

I stopped dating, and that happened long before the pandemic. The only thing I miss about it are the funny stories about bad dates I used to tell (often publicly for fundraisers for places like Planned Parenthood, so at least I mocked my potential swains for a good cause).

Unfortunately, this means that as the editor of a paper with an annual love and sex issue, I felt uniquely underqualified to assign stories on the topic. But I am also never afraid to back down from a challenge.

So I posted this on my personal Facebook page for all to see: "EW's Love and Sex issue is looming, and as a single person who doesn't date, who has written far too many times about bad dates, I need some ideas for stories. Pandemic themes are good."

The suggestions that poured in were golden and worth a story in themselves. I also got at least one message inviting me out on a date — for a story. Contrary to any number of Hollywood movies, female journalists don't all sleep with their sources.

So here they are, with the exception of the date invite, lightly edited for space and sometimes anonymity.

- Couples who married during the pandemic. 😊
- How to not be driven nuts by your partner in pandemic. I love me some relaxed quality time at home with my love, but it's been almost 10 months of limited alternative social outlets and limited outside stimulation.
- "Single person who doesn't date" — aromanticism is probably not written about or represented enough.
- Virtual adultery?
- How amazingly cheap, easy and fun a Zoom wedding can be.
- Online dance lessons? Including unpartnered.
- How relationship-oriented businesses such as Match and eHarmony have changed their advertising to continue promoting their product. I saw a commercial the other night from one of the major matchmaking services that showed a couple they had matched up on their first date, chatting over Zoom while doing performative cooking for each other.
- How we have a great opportunity to refine and practice the tools for safe sex conversations because everyone is having those conversations about vaccinating, quarantining and even quarantine pods now.
- Examples of how the pandemic has socially and culturally isolated people (at almost every level) creating an abyss of opportunity to meet, develop relationships, fall in love. Sports, festivals, art, music events, religious/spiritual events, school/university, regular civic, nonprofit, associations — nothing to bring us together for the chance of love. Gone. Or examples of no place to go to clubs, concerts, not even bars or community centers. How about encounters where people meet, are attracted, but are afraid of getting COVID? You can hardly have sex with masks on or? What is that like?
- How pets and porn are replacing men and women respectively.
- Hookup culture during COVID (do people have sex with masks, screen potential partners for how "safe" they've been, etc...), breaking up with a live-in partner or divorcing during COVID and trauma bonding.
- And long distance relationships during COVID.
- Loving yourself in isolation.
- How about an imagined perfect-enough date? (story idea:-)
- As Kanye West said, "got that love lockdown..." I got married during the pandemic and would love to read stories of others that did the same.
- More so than pandemic isolation, I'm sure those of us who aren't single have lots of stories about our spouses driving us crazy during quarantine and desperately need some good ideas about keeping things from overwhelming us. Maybe a piece about creating personal space in 1,000 square feet? 😊

- And for the teens...
- Something on an infatuation with bird watching and bird mating. Some have great dances.
- I hear the sale of sex toys has been booming during the pandemic. Seriously. 😊😊
- Watching film/TV try to figure out what to do is interesting — in terms of safe production, as well as in terms of storyline/subject. There's at least one limited series and one film (set in Portland) that are about this.
- Oh damn. You don't want to hear my pandemic dating stories. They will make people never want to date again 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄
- Self-love.
- How well older queer men were prepared for pandemic mode. Because of, well, another pandemic?
- I'm not a relationship person per-se, either. But once in a while I like to enjoy the company of others. So I have my regular COVID go-tos. Just a couple of people I've known for years, who are also in the same position and still trying to adhere to general COVID sanctions. The proximity garners trust, familiarity makes it safe, expectations are clear, and it's fairly simple. You don't need to read Dan Savage to know how that goes. LOL. 😊
- How about something on women fake-dating Proud Boys, etc. to turn them in for storming the Capitol?
- I wonder if the department of health glory hole promotion caught on?
- One of the things my husband and I feel really fortunate for is that we spend most of our time together and have done so for quite a few years now. We have seen folks who are long-termers with separate careers struggle when retirement suddenly puts them together all the time — conscious harmony takes practice! We've been wondering how couples whose time is suddenly spent together by COVID are doing, what new patterns emerge in relationships.
- Baby boom nine months after initial lockdown (December 2020) then drought by February when everyone's sick of each other and unemployed so can't afford to have said potential babies.
- Love on the internet. Virtual dates. When my husband was working in Saudi Arabia, we took extravagant virtual vacations to all sorts of places. One of us would plan the trip with links to what we would see and do and include all the photos we would take on the trip. A whiskey tour of Scotland, an Under the Tuscan Sun trip to Italy... I got very strange looks from friends one evening when I said I had to dash because I needed to be in Greece in 30 minutes. 😊
- I think the pandemic has been clarifying in terms of what we DO love. Who we give our energy to, be it the friends that we make the effort to stay in contact with, or the careful choices about "pods." It has shown us who we really have a hard time living without.
- Write about love, the authentic, messy, sweatpant clad, simple way we show up for other creatures. It doesn't have to be romantic.
- I'm very curious what the sex party people are doing in lockdown!
- How COVID has created a new layer of "safer sex" dialogue in dating, especially in poly relationships. The amount of consent language that now needs to happen to help everyone feel safe is laborious. It also creates a sweetness when people truly honor and respect each other.
- Should you post your COVID status on your Tinder profile?
- How short relationships are suddenly serious. My brother went from a first Tinder date to a monogamous relationship within two weeks (for obvious health reasons!) then all the sudden since lockdown they have spent every holiday together, Thanksgiving, Christmas, NYE, etc. is this love, or is it COVID? Haha 🤔😊 ■

LOVE & SEX

ME, MYSELF AND MY COVID BUBBLE

SAFE SEX DURING THE PANDEMIC LEAVES THE PUBLIC WITH THREE OPTIONS —
STAY INSIDE, GET CREATIVE OR TAKE A CHANCE

BY ARDESHIR TABRIZIAN

Even by public health standards, expecting people to abstain from sex during a global pandemic is a big ask.

Two weeks after Gov. Kate Brown issued a statewide stay-at-home order in March 2020, the Oregon Health Authority took to Twitter, offering guidance on “sex in the time of COVID-19.”

OHA’s tips were as follows — masturbate, use toys and connect with others using virtual platforms. Use protection, and wash hands with soap and water before and after sex for at least 20 seconds. No kissing or rimming.

Tim Menza, medical director for OHA’s HIV/STD/TB section, says much of the initial guidance is still relevant. “We think that sexual health is indeed a part of health, and things like touch and intimacy are important parts of our wellbeing, and a lot of people are missing the physical and emotional benefits of sex,” he says. “We’ve encouraged ways for Oregonians to connect sexually with themselves, right, with the understanding that we are our safest sex partners as individuals.”

In addition to consent, personal preferences, boundaries and STIs, Menza says pre-sex conversations expanded to COVID precautions and social bubbles, and it’s best to err on the side of being open and honest. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) become sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) when they become symptomatic.

But even absent a global pandemic, it is difficult for people to talk about safe sex, says somatic (body centered) sex educator Victor Warring.

“A lot of times, the conversations that people have, if they have them, aren’t really conversations. They’re kind of assumptions. People get together and their idea of having a risk-aware sex conversation is like, ‘Hey, are you clean?’ The other person will go, ‘Yeah, I’m clean. I’m good. I don’t have anything,’” Warring says. “And I’m using the word ‘clean’ sort of tongue-in-cheek.”

People adapt, Warring says, with new creative approaches to sex and dating becoming increasingly common over the course of the pandemic. By making verbal “COVID contracts,” two or more people mutually plan to stay quarantined for two weeks before having sex, while others just roll the dice. “I’ve had a couple of friends in my life actually get COVID because of a risk they took,” he says.



VICTOR WARRING



KIM MARKS

According to Menza, coordinating periods of quarantine prior to sex is the safest scenario, and if one person has to travel or goes to a gathering, the two-week period would ideally restart. “But we realize that it’s not always realistic, and so people may opt to shorten that window a little bit or to use testing as another way to shorten that interval,” he says.

“There may be two people involved, maybe there’s more than two people involved. And so again, that open and honest communication between all partners about quarantine, testing and potential exposures.”

Anybody who has not been tested for HIV in the last year can order a free, 20-minute home test at [takemehome.co](https://www.takemehome.co) to know their HIV status, Menza says.

Months into a rainy Oregon winter, and with many frustrated from Zoom burnout, meeting others outside has become more challenging, so “one way people are countering that frustration is they’re taking self pleasure into their own hands,” says Kim Marks, owner of As You Like It in Eugene. The eco-conscious, body positive adult store has seen a rise in sales during the pandemic, with people coming in to pick up their first sex toy and couples seeking help for trying new things.

“I just hope people take a moment to realize that this is a good moment to just hug yourself, ask your friends and community for what you need, and hope for good support to get you through this while you figure out what’s next,” Marks says. “My heart just goes out to so many people right now, such a hard time to be folks. People are, they’re starving for hugs, some of us have gone months without hugging people. We need touch to survive. It’s a need, it’s not a want.”

Warring says that while he prefers his professional coaching to be in person, switching to online has allowed him to meet with people he otherwise never would have, from the East Coast to Australia.

“What I hope comes from all of this tragedy, in the world of dating and sex, is that people start having more in-depth and bodied conversations about sex and risk, and have a better sense of creating boundaries for themselves,” Warring says. “Humans are built to have social connection. And within that sexual connection, and this event, this pandemic, obviously, has changed things. But basically, what I’m saying is that no matter what humans are going to find a way.” ■

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LOVE & SEX

LOVE ON THE FRONT LINES

A PROTEST PHOTOGRAPHER SHARES THEIR STORY
OF FINDING LOVE IN A TIME OF CONFLICT

BY JESSICA FRINK

It was shortly after midnight on July 5, 2020, when I came to a realization that would change the course of my life.

Earlier that night, I stood, camera in hand, across from the justice center in downtown Portland, a hotspot of Black Lives Matter protests in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd. My role was clear — I was there as a photojournalist to document the events.

The police bull-rushed the crowd and made the first round of arrests. I watched five police shove a small-framed young woman to the ground. Narrowly escaping arrest, she ran away, bloodied and in tears. My phone was blowing up with calls and texts from my team. Frantically, I got on the line, “I can’t find Luke!”

“Jess,” my colleague replied with a voice much calmer than mine. “Luke was just arrested.”

“No!” I yelled, as if I could change what already happened. I felt like I’d been hit by a brick. For the first time last summer, the tears came.

That was the moment I realized I had fallen in love with Luke.

Falling in love wasn’t on my radar for 2020, but then again, none of the other events that had happened that year were, either, a sentiment that I’m sure is shared by many. Before COVID hit, it had been a few years since I worked as a photojournalist. Life had kept me busy with a job I often joked paid the bills.

But on May 29, word of a demonstration eight blocks from my home sparked a passion for photojournalism that had previously been suppressed by the demands and disorder of life. I grabbed my camera and biked to the scene of the first BLM protest in Eugene. That night paved the way for the love stories to come, one of self-love, community and partnership.

Isolated due to the pandemic, I immediately found camaraderie at the protests. Documenting the protests provided me with a renewed sense of purpose. I felt appreciated and began making new friends at a time when



PORTLAND POLICE ARREST LUKE SCHWEDLER AS HE SHOUTS HIS NAME TO A VOLUNTEER WITH THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD DURING AN INDEPENDENCE DAY PROTEST IN CHAPMAN SQUARE, SATURDAY JULY 4, 2020

Photo by Nathan Howard

opportunities for forming friendships were limited.

One of those friends was Luke Schwedler.

I had met him a few weeks prior to the fateful night in Portland. My mind solely focused on journalism, I had gone to an event in search of contacts for a story. I had just exchanged phone numbers with live streamer Tre Stewart of Boop Troop Eugene when Luke asked me for my number as well. At that point, I didn’t even know his name, but his guileless smile told me I could trust him.

What ensued was a friendship so natural, you would have thought we’d known each other for years. We hung out chatting long after the protests we were attending concluded, with one featuring a spontaneous 2 am wrestling match on my front lawn. At a Juneteenth celebration, Luke turned down a ride home from his parents and walked the two miles with me back to my house.

Luke was one of 10 of us who had traveled to Portland for the protest on the 4th. His experience in Portland dramatically changed his perspective on society.

Witnessing the police brutality and experiencing an arrest with use of excessive force, which nearly broke his thumb, wore on Luke. It was clear in his behavior that he was suffering, frustrated and angry most of the time.

He did his best to maintain his cheerful demeanor; still, crippling depression and numerous triggers throughout the protests tore at him. His usual coping mechanism of avoidance and isolation weren’t conducive to a healthy relationship. The beginning of our courtship was marked by highs and lows, with tear gas, rubber bullets, flash bangs and Molotov cocktails scattered in between.

Adding to that, each of us had our own internal conflict. His lack of relationship experience, sexual trauma and porn addiction created an internal struggle to which I couldn’t relate. My own conflict revolved around the ethics of dating a protester while trying to remain a journalist in the situation, as well as the fact that I had just recently gotten out of a long-term relationship. “Was I just rebounding?” I asked myself. “Are we trauma bonding?”

There was some of that. The adrenaline of covering a protest can be addictive, but can also exhaust you. And with the protests happening into the early morning hours, a normal life is impossible. As fall arrived, we took a step back from protests and sought out new plans for the future.

Come November, I moved in with Luke. I was anxious and nervous. I knew living together would either make or break the relationship and it was still fairly early in our courtship.

Ultimately, it made things better. I found myself waking up with a smile every morning, in a home where I could finally relax. Moving in together gave us time to connect outside of the drama of protests. Here in the mundane of the day to day, I could imagine settling into a life of comfort with him.

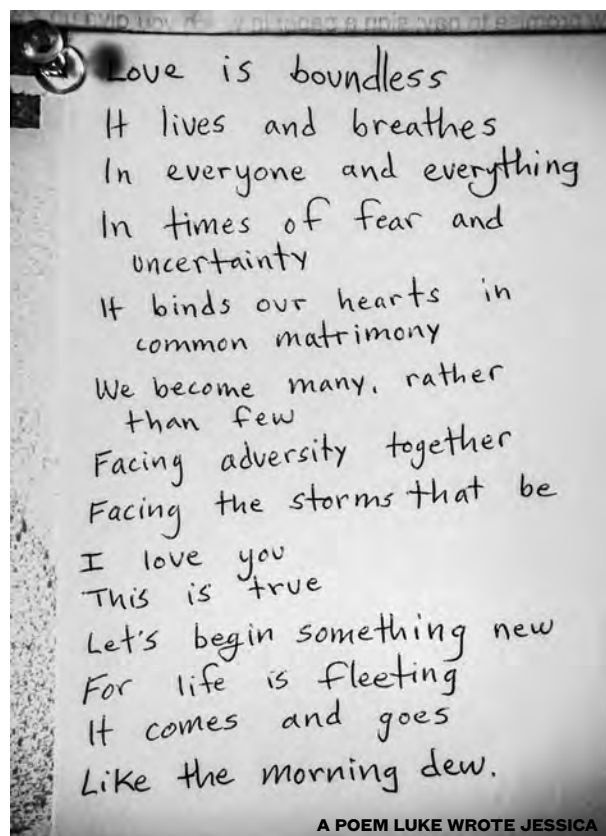
But 2021 has other plans for us.

This Valentine’s weekend, I depart for Costa Rica, where I will be documenting my experience living off-grid in a treehouse community, learning about rainforest conservation and eco-tourism.

Meanwhile, Luke heads to Israel for an internship. Though our destinations are far apart, we both have similar goals of self-growth and discovery. A year ago, I wouldn’t have envisioned this was possible. 2020 spurred a self-realization and connection with myself that pushed me beyond the complacency and stagnancy of my life previously. The love I found at the protests, both in myself and my community, set the foundation for my partnership with Luke, one of support and encouragement. We have inspired each other to set our goals higher and pursue this next leg of our journey.

With a fair bit of irony, we might not be physically together for the holiday celebrating love, but our hearts will be. Together, despite the distance, we are beginning something new. And when we reunite our bond will be even stronger. ■

Find more of Jessica Frink’s work at [JessicaFrink.com](https://www.JessicaFrink.com).



A POEM LUKE WROTE JESSICA



The show does go on, for the sake of Egan Warming Center. For nine years, the **Eugene Caldera Songwriting Tribe**, nearly two dozen strong, has convened at Tsunami Books in Eugene to play a benefit for the St. Vincent de Paul program that provides overnight shelter for the homeless on cold nights. It's always been a popular benefit. This year, because of COVID, two prerecorded hour-long virtual watch parties have been set up where the musicians — from Beth Wood and John Shipe to Julia O'Reilly, who also produced the shows — will perform from their homes or from socially distanced locales. There may even be haiku performances. They have been known to happen at this benefit. Mark your calendars, because the show must go on.

The Eugene Caldera Songwriting Tribe's two-part benefit for Egan Warming Center begins Feb. 14 at noon and can be found on the group's YouTube channel and Facebook. Part two of the benefit is March 14, also at noon. Donations of between \$5 and \$20 to Egan can be made at St. Vincent de Paul's website (SVDP.us). — *Dan Buckwalter*

GENERAL

LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

ACTIVIST ALERT

Thursday, Feb. 19: New State Bills Threaten Our Right to Dissent, 3-5pm. More info at CLDC.org.

ART EXHIBITS

"If Not Now, When?" (thru Feb. 12), Maude Kerns Art Center.

Erik Sandgren - "Observed, Imagined and Remembered: The Northwest Landscape" (thru Feb. 27), Karin Clarke Gallery.

Photography At Oregon presents Dan Neklen: Head-Strong - The Women of Rural Uganda (thru Feb 27), Emerald Art Ctr., 500 Main St, Springfield.

Focus Artist - Becki Hesedahl at River Gallery (thru Feb. 28), River Gallery, Independence.

Edward Pabor: Patagonia and Antarctica (thru March 2), PhotoZone Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

Exhibition: Highlights From the Gallery Collection (thru March 6), White Lotus Gallery.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, JSMA.Uoregon.edu.

GATHERINGS

Free Tax Help (thru April 11). Appointments required. Call 541-954-7941 or email LaneTaxHelp@gmail.com.

Job Search Help by appointment at the downtown library. Call 541-686-7985 to schedule.

HEALTH

Zoom classes at YMCA.org.

Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAmForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at EvolveFitnessStudios Facebook page.

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; EugeneMudra.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

All levels of yoga (chair, advanced, yoga for health care workers and children) at Vista Wellness Center. Visit VistaPsych.com for more info.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Ballet Boost (Virtual) Workshop w/ Ballet Fantastique (ages 6 to 10 thru March 16). Sign up at BalletFantastique.org/boost

The Gutenberg Dialogues: An In-depth look at Tyranny (every Wednesday thru May 19), 6:30-8pm. More info at Gutenberg.edu. \$32-63.

MUSIC

Oregon Mozart Players Candlelight Concert online (thru March 1). More info at OregonMozartPlayers.org. \$5.

"Music to Save Earth's Songs," videos posted Mondays and Thursdays thru March. More info at Liberalarts.Oregonstate.edu.

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 11

HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom Group @ NamiLane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Healing Through Discussion Group w/ Trauma Healing Group, 9:30-11am. More info at HealingAttention.org. FREE-\$15.

Laura Fritz: "Mechanisms of Uncertainty," 4pm. More info at ArtDesign.Uoregon.edu.

Live Virtual Sexuality Education - Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon, 4-5:15pm. More info at PlannedParenthood.org. \$100.

MARKETS

Love Science Sale w/ the Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 10am-4pm. More info at MNCH.Uoregon.edu.

MUSIC

Symphony Soundwaves (virtual concert), 7pm, Eugene Symphony.org.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

Thursday eKLeCtic, 8-10pm, KLCC, 89.7FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Com-cast channel 29

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

RECREATION

Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6-8pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 12

GATHERINGS

City Club of Eugene: "Delivering on the American Dream: Housing Affordability in the 21st Century," noon, Eugene City Club Facebook Page. Aired again at 7pm Monday, Feb. 15, on KLCC, 89.7 FM

Food Not Bombs, cooking starts at noon (email EugeneFoodNotBombs@gmail.com for location), serves at 4pm at Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St. next to fountains.

San Francisco Carnaval Dance & Costume Making, noon, EPLFoundation.org.

HOLIDAY

Rotary Roses at The Emporium, Veneta (in Elmira thru Sunday), noon-6pm, The Elmira Grange, 88764 Sprague Rd.

KIDS/FAMILY

Art Kits for Adults: Tissue Paper Painting, 10am, all Eugene Public Library locations.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Foundations of NeuroMeditation: Instructor Training, 9am-1:30pm. More info at NeuroMeditationInstitute.com. \$495.

Fundamentals of Sex Ed Training - Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon, 10am-3pm. More info at PlannedParenthood.org. \$250.

Trans & Disability Group, 2-3pm. Transponder.Community.

Expression Through Art w/ The Trauma Healing Project, 4-5pm. More info at HealingAttention.org. FREE-\$15.

MARKETS

The Emporium, Veneta (in Elmira thru Sunday) a pop-up shop, noon-6pm, Elmira Grange, 88764 Sprague Rd.

MUSIC

Friday Night Folk Music Live Stream, 7pm. More info at

Kathryn Rose Celtic Folk Festival Facebook page.

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation (instruction provided), 7pm. Zoom only at BlueCliffZen.org.

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 13

DANCE

Pride & Prejudice: A Parisian Jazz Watch Party (thru Monday), BalletFantastique.org.

FARMERS MARKETS

Lane County Farmers Market Winter Market, 10am-2pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

FOOD/DRINK

Sweetheart Tea w/ Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 1pm. Info at SmjHouse.org. \$20.

Oysters & Bubbly... Valentine Edition, 4-9pm, Capitello Wines, 540 Charnelton St.

GATHERINGS

Burrito Brigade, 9:30am-3:30pm. More info at BurritoBrigade.org.

Trans Community Support Group, 3:30-5pm. Info at Transponder.Community.

KIDS/FAMILY

Virtual Lego Club at the Springfield Public Library, 3:30pm. Info at WhereMindsGrow.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Tax Lists Help Solve Genealogy Problems w/ Oregon Genealogical Society, 10am-noon. Info at Oregongs.org. \$10.

ON THE AIR

The Dr. Yeti Show, 10pm-midnight, KOCF, 92.5 FM or streamed at KOCF.org.

The Institute of Spectra Sound, 10pm-midnight, KEPW, 97.3 FM

THEATER

Majesticpiece Theatre Presents: *Sherlock Holmes*, 7:30pm. Link at Arts.app-people.com. FREE-\$10.

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 14

BENEFITS

Caldera Songwriting Tribe benefit for Egan Warming Center, noon at Caldera Songwriting Tribe Facebook page. Donations accepted for Egan Warming Center at SVDP.us.

FOOD/DRINK

Valentine's Day at The Village Green, 4-9pm. More info at TheVillageGreen.com.

GATHERINGS

Burrito Brigade, 11am-4pm. More info at BurritoBrigade.org.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical, noon-4pm, 1717 Centennial Blvd, Springfield.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Parent-Child Massage Class Benefiting Our Community Birth Center, 11am-noon. More info at OurCommunityBirthCenter.square.site.

RECREATION

Brewers Guild Bingo, 3-6pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 4:30pm, Blue Cliff Zen Center, 352 W. 12th Ave.

Eugene Insight Meditation via Zoom, 6:30pm, Eugene-Insight.com.

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 15

HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NAMILane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation (thru Wednesday), noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

The Joy of Acceptance, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

Return to Crete: Wildflowers and History on a Mediterranean Island, 7-9pm. More info at Emerald.npsoregon.org.

LITERARY ARTS

Rainbow Reads, 6-8pm, WordCrafters.org.

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 16

KIDS/FAMILY

Activity Kits for Kids: a heart-themed balance toy, 10am, all Eugene Public Library locations.

Family Storytime online, 11am, Eugene Public Library Facebook page.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Gentle Restorative Yoga w/ The Trauma Healing Project via Zoom, 10-11am. FREE-\$15.

Open Heart NeuroMeditation: 6 Week Course, 4-6pm. More info at NeuroMeditationInstitute.com. \$175.

High Desert Speaker Series: The Hope of Wild Places w/ Oregon Natural Desert Association, 5:30-7pm. More info at ONDA.org.

Lamrim Practice, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

Oregon DMV Permit Prep Class, 6-8:45pm. More info at LaneCountyDriving-School.com.

Oregon Season Tracker: Community Collaborative Citizen Science in your own Backyard, 6:30pm. More info at LCMGA Facebook page.

LITERARY ARTS

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm. More info at Transponder.Community.

Windfall Reading Online w/ Eugene Public Library, 6pm, Eugene Public Library YouTube page (bit.ly/WindfallFeb2021).

RECREATION

Karaoke w/ Caught In The Act Entertainment, 6-10pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Center, 352 W. 12th Ave.

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17

LECTURES/CLASSES

Nia Moving to Heal w/ The Trauma Healing Project via

Zoom, 3-4pm. More info at HealingAttention.org. FREE-\$15.

Gender Diverse Yoga w/ The Trauma Healing Project via Zoom, 5:30-6:30pm. More info at HealingAttention.org. FREE-\$15.

Love & Attachment are Different, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

Mushrooms of Cascadia by Michael Beug, 7pm, CascadeMyco.org.

ON THE AIR

"Come Together Oregon," 6pm, KEPW, 97.3 FM

MUSIC

Live music - Acoustic, 5-8pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Center, 352 W. 12th Ave.

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 18

FILM

Springfilm: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* - Live Stream and Film Discussion, 6:30pm. Link at Springfield-or.libcal.com.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Healing Through Discussion Group w/ Trauma Healing Group, 9:30-11am. More info at HealingAttention.org. FREE-\$15.

Women in Transition Information Sessions, 10-11am. More info at LaneCC.edu.

ATTENTION

Community volunteers are needed to become Long-Term Care Ombudsmen to advocate for those in Oregon who live and receive care in nursing homes, assisted living and memory care facilities. The program needs more than another 100 volunteers for the advocacy coming out of the pandemic. The pandemic has spotlighted the need for Long-Term Care Ombudsman services in a time when it is difficult to visit loved ones residing in long-term care. Unfortunately, only 49 percent of Oregon's facilities have a volunteer Ombudsman assigned to them. Two upcoming online trainings are scheduled for 2021: March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18 and April 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29. An application process must be completed. This includes submitting an application either online or by mail or fax, participating in an interview, having references checked and completing a criminal records check. Volunteers are expected to commit for at least a year after completing the training. For more information or to apply, please contact our office: (800) 522-2602 or email ltco.info@oregon.gov. To report a concern at a long-term care facility or to learn more about volunteering, call 1-800-522-2602 or visit Oltco.org. There is a deputy on duty available weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Wandering the Earth, Alone

PRIZE-WINNING **NASUMICE (ADrift)**, DIRECTED BY SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE CALEB BURDEAU, IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

By Emily Topping

Two men sit by a well, peering into the milky darkness below. They are separated by a language barrier — one man Bosnian, the other Italian, both speaking in stilted English — but bound by a common sense of loneliness.

Somewhere in the murky water of the well lives in an eel, explains the Italian.

“*L’anguila*,” he says. “She lives the whole life alone, in the dark. Always waiting for something that falls from up.” As are both men, simply waiting.

So goes *Nasumice (Adrift)*, the first feature film by director and South Eugene High School graduate Caleb Burdeau, a slow moving portrait of displacement and separation, set against the beautiful rocky backdrop of southern Italy. The film took Best Feature Film at the 2019 Tripoli Film Festival and is now available streaming on Amazon Prime.

The story follows displaced Bosnian photographer Elvis (Moamer Kasumovic), who meets the charming Rodolfo (Marcello Prayer) while taking his picture in the streets of Venice. Rodolfo gushes about the beauty of his seaside Italian hometown, Puglia, and insists that Elvis come visit.

Elvis, on the other hand, has no home. He has been



set adrift by the Yugoslav Wars in his home country. We see memories, or perhaps visions, of the conflict in black-and-white clips: men holding guns at their hip, ducking between walls of bullet-speckled concrete. With nothing to lose, he decides to follow Rodolfo’s loose instructions and pay him a visit.

However, when the photographer travels by train to surprise his new friend, he is taken aback to find someone more like a teenager than the self-assured, jovial adult he met in Venice. Rodolfo is rudely awakened by his mother and greets Elvis at his doorstep with a disheveled bed-

head, wearing tighty-whities. How embarrassing. All is not well, it seems, in Puglia.

What *Nasumice* lacks in a thrilling plot line, it makes up for in stunning cinematography. Wide, sweeping views of the countryside make the characters appear small, almost no more important than the rocks and sheep that surround them. Even the city scenes feel isolated — typical postcard visions of Europe are soured with melancholy when a floating shot of the Venice canals reveals a casket being loaded into a gondola.

The film relies on little dialogue, which is often halted by the characters’ lack of common language or understanding. Kasumovic, a well known Bosnian actor, plays the role of Elvis with quiet brilliance. He may not understand Rodolfo’s awkward family dynamic, watching in confusion as silent dinners dissolve into shouting matches, but he knows isolation when he sees it.

While *Nasumice (Adrift)* is a slow burn, the artistic direction and understated performances make for a worthwhile watch. As Rodolfo and Elvis eventually untangle and go their separate ways, it is the absence of a real goodbye that succinctly summarizes their time together. Maybe loneliness is the only true *lingua franca*. ■

Nasumice (Adrift) is available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

music



Marv’s Infinite Playlist

EUGENE HIP-HOP ARTIST **MARV ELLIS** RELEASES NEW SINGLE, MUSIC VIDEO

By Henry Houston

The 1993 comedy classic *Groundhog Day* has always been on Eugene native hip-hop artist Marv Ellis’ mind. But as life under quarantine went on, the movie about a TV news reporter living the same day over and over started to feel a little more real.

“I don’t know about you, but I’ve been living the same day on repeat,” he posted Feb. 2 on Facebook to announce the release of his newest song, “Groundhog Day.”

Ellis tells *Eugene Weekly* he’s had writer’s block during the pandemic, and his new release not only explores it but

also pays homage to the movie of the same name.

Ellis remembers talking on the phone with a friend about the cyclical nature of his life during COVID-19 and how he was frustrated that he hadn’t been writing or recording as much music as he hoped. “I didn’t know what I wanted to write about, but I wanted to make a song,” he says.

When he’s feeling stuck from writer’s block, he says he usually writes about it. “In this case, ‘Groundhog Day’ is what came out.” He adds that after listening to what he recorded, he realized the similarities and tragic beauty of his situation. “My process of creation is self therapy,” he says.

The beat to “Groundhog Day” is a hooky four-beat looped bass riff. Ellis says when he hit the studio to defeat his writer’s block, that was the beat he chose because of its repetition. “Like *Groundhog Day*,” he adds. He took his dogs on a walk to craft the melody. He returned to the studio to record kazoos over the bass to reinforce the beat and then worked on the lyrics in the studio for about two hours.

He says “Groundhog Day” was just a fun song that he shared with his inner circle. With the namesake holiday around the corner, he decided to release the song on the day. Ellis is a member of the Free Creatures, which includes his fiancée, Emily Turner, on upright bass and Skyler Squglio on guitar. The trio recorded the music for the song, and it was on its way for release on Punxsutawney Phil’s big day.

Two weeks before Groundhog Day, Ellis worked with director Daniel Favela to shoot a music video. The video pays homage to *Groundhog Day* the movie — he dresses up like Bill Murray’s character and he says he even bought the same model clock on eBay that was used in the movie.

In the video, he’s wearing T-shirts for local organizations, from Arcimoto to KWVA 88.1FM. Ellis says he chose 15 T-shirts to fit into a theme. “Verse one was the now, having coffee, waking up. Verse two was musical history, in my studio, being creative,” he says. “Verse three was Bill Murray, and verse four was contentment and peace.”

A lot has been written about the movie *Groundhog Day* (such as estimating how many days Murray’s character lived through, why he got stuck in the loops, and so on). Ellis says he sees the changes of the character through seasons: “He plays, then he’s angry, then he’s morbid, and then he’s reborn,” he says. “Altruism is the key to his escape.”

As for how society can break through what feels like an ongoing loop since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ellis says if we can follow with Murray’s character’s changes, we can make it through the hard times. “I know we would,” he adds. ■

Marv Ellis’ “Groundhog Day” music video is on YouTube, and the song is available on all major streaming services.

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coming and inclusive atmosphere for par-
ticipants and volunteers; maintaining
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participation; assisting with food service
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hear ye, hear ye !!



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Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES
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Across

1 A name by any other name?
6 ___-pitch softball
9 Gradually withdraw
13 Country singer Griffith
14 Place first
15 Titular "Pinhead" of
comics
16 Short, effective set for a
stand-up comedian
18 Pissed
19 Gain again, as trust
20 Former Quebecois
premier ___ Levesque
22 Cosecant, for one
27 "Citizen Kane" studio
29 Grant temporary use of
30 "Frozen" princess
31 Raphael's weapon, in
"Teenage Mutant Ninja
Turtles"
32 Molecule unit
34 Held for possible sale,
maybe

36 Midwestern NBA follower,
maybe
39 Japanese period for over
250 years (headquartered in
what is now Tokyo)
40 Oboe, for one
41 Suffix for trick
42 Leakes of reality TV
43 Final Four initials
45 Post-apocalyptic zombie
series, to fans
46 Tank dwellers that need a
lot of care
50 "Cinderella Man"
antagonist
51 Feature of some
interesting stories
54 Internet connection
device
57 "Heads up!" (or advice to
crossword speed-solvers)
60 A fire sign
61 "Yikes!"
62 High-ranking

63 "Edward Scissorhands"
star
64 Ham sandwich bread
65 Like some bathwater

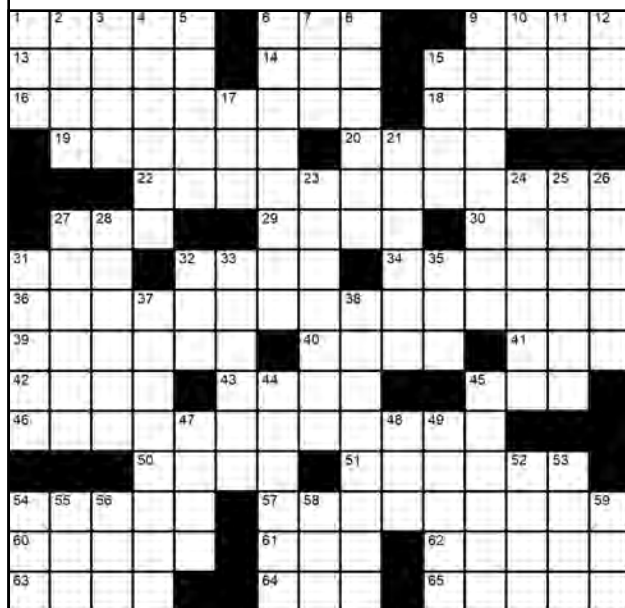
Down

1 Colony resident
2 Dragon's den
3 "Picnic" playwright
4 Really wish you could
5 Instrument that can play
quarter tones
6 Refrain for a "sweet
chariot"
7 Letters for the 2020 Super
Bowl
8 Margin in a close game,
maybe
9 Bugs
10 Green-minded org.
11 Fitting
12 Bill who appears in the
2021 Amazon movie "Bliss"
15 Much of a penny

"True/False Test"

—either way, it's correct.

17 Part of some three-day
weekends, for short
21 Belgian salad green
23 Artery along the thigh
24 "Be back ___"
25 2020 Pixar movie
26 Au pair
27 Oakland athlete
28 Kyoto garment
31 Blood flow facilitator
32 ___ Lingus (carrier based
in Dublin)
33 Techno offshoot big in
the 1990s
35 Ryerson who shows
up (again!) during repeat
viewings of "Groundhog Day"
37 Traffic noise
38 How some flat, green
insects are described
44 Oldest ever U.S. ex-
president
45 It's still a good idea to get
a shot for it
47 Pet food brand
48 The Lightning Seeds lead
singer Broudie
49 Wanda of "Curb Your
Enthusiasm"
52 Mass movement of
viewers to another Twitch
stream
53 Air France assets, once
54 Magazine with a final
print issue in 2018
55 Mineral-rich source
56 Quick swim
58 "Pay attention!"
59 Scottish mystery writer
Josephine



ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S
GHI ARAMIS BBB
AUF SILENT MIRO
PSYCHOLOGY TODAY
SHOO AWE ONEND
USCG ISITS
BID HIBACHIS
ERA PFEFFERMINZ
EARL FRILL SMEE
PNEUMOGRAPH SAT
CORSETED ORA
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ideal family will take her on long walks and then have a long, cuddly
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After a few pets she kept running up to me and giving me big, sloppy
kisses! It's hard not to have a smile around her." Snowflake has a good
but limited history with other dogs and needs to meet any potential
dog friends in the shelter before going home. She may do okay with a
dog savvy cat after a slow introduction and would do best with older
kids that can respect her space. Snowflake weighs between 70 and 80
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Author Anton Chekhov made a radical proposal: “Perhaps the feelings we experience when we are in love represent a normal state. Being in love shows people who they should be.” In accordance with astrological potentials, my beloved Aries darling, I invite you to act as if Chekhov’s proposal were absolutely true for at least the next two weeks. Be animated by a generous lust for life. Assume that your intelligence will reach a peak as you express excited kindness and affectionate compassion. Be a fount of fond feelings and cheerful empathy and nourishing ardor.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau told the following story about Taurus composer Erik Satie (1866–1925). When Satie died, his old friends, many of whom were highly accomplished people, came to visit his apartment. There they discovered that all the letters they had sent him over the years were unopened. Satie had never read them! How sad that he missed out on all that lively exchange. I beg you not to do anything that even remotely resembles such a lack of receptivity during the coming weeks, Taurus. In fact, please do just the opposite: Make yourself as open as possible to engagement and influence. I understand that the pandemic somewhat limits your social interactions. Just do the best you can.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): On behalf of the cosmic omens, I demand that the important people in your life be reliable and generous toward you in the coming weeks. You can tell them I said so. Tell them that you are doing pretty well, but that in order to transform pretty well into very well, you need them to boost their support and encouragement. Read them the following words from author Alan Cohen: “Those who love you are not fooled by mistakes you have made or dark images you hold about yourself. They remember your beauty when you feel ugly; your wholeness when you are broken; your innocence when you feel guilty; and your purpose when you are confused.”

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): For a while, poet Alfred de Musset (1810–1857) was the sexual partner of Cancerian novelist George Sand (1804–1876), also known as Aurore Dupin. He said that after intense love-making sessions, he would fall asleep and wake up to find her sitting at her desk, engrossed in working on her next book. Maybe the erotic exchange inspired her creativity? In accordance with current astrological potentials, I recommend Sand’s approach to you. Vigorous pleasure will coordinate well with hard work. As will deep release with strong focus. As will tender intimacy with clear thinking. (PS: I know your options for pleasure and intimacy may be somewhat limited because of the pandemic. Call on your ingenuity and resourcefulness to work the best magic possible.)

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Leo poet Warsan Shire suggests, “Document the moments you feel most in love with yourself — what you’re wearing, who you’re around, what you’re doing. Recreate and repeat.” This would be an excellent exercise for you to carry out during this Valentine season. You’re in a phase when you’re likely to enhance your lovability and attract extra support simply by intensifying and refining the affectionate compassion you feel and express toward yourself.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): I wish the pandemic would give us a short break so we could celebrate the Valentine season with maximum sensual revelry and extravagant displays of joyful tenderness. I wish we could rip off our masks and forget about social-distancing and hug and kiss everyone who wants to be hugged and kissed. But that’s not going to happen. If we hope to be free to indulge in a Lush Love and Lust Festival by Valentine Season in 2022, we’ve got to be cautious and controlled now. And we are all counting on you Virgos to show us how to be as wildly, lyrically romantic as possible while still observing the necessary limitations. That’s your special task.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Author Raymond Carver wrote, “It ought to make us feel ashamed when we talk like we know what we’re talking about when we talk about love.” That seems like a harsh oversimplification to me. Personally, I think it’s fun and interesting to pretend we know what we’re talking about when we talk about love. And I think that will be especially true for you in the coming weeks. In my astrological opinion, you should be discussing love extensively and boldly and imaginatively. You should redefine what love means to you. You should re-evaluate how you express it and reconfigure the way it works in your life.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): I’m turning over this horoscope to psychologist John Welwood. His words are the medicine you need at this juncture in the evolution of intimacy. Study the following quote and interpret it in ways that help illuminate your relationship with togetherness: “A soul connection is a resonance between two people who respond to the essential beauty of each other’s individual natures, behind their facades, and who connect on this deeper level. This kind of mutual recognition provides the catalyst for a potent alchemy. It is a sacred alliance whose purpose is to help both partners discover and realize their deepest potentials.”

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Transform yourself with the sweetest challenge you can dream up. Give yourself a blessing that will compel you to get smarter and wilder. Dazzle yourself as you dare to graduate from your history. Rile yourself up with a push to become your better self, your best self, your amazingly fulfilled and masterful self. Ask yourself to leap over the threshold of ordinary magic and into the realm of spooky good magic. And if all that works out well, Sagittarius, direct similar energy toward someone you care about. In other words, transform them with the sweetest challenge you can dream up. Dare them to graduate from their history. And so on.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): I invite you to compose a message to a person you’d like to be closer to and whom you’re sure would like to be closer to you. Be inspired by what poet Clementine von Radics wrote to the man she was dating, telling him why she thought they could start living together. Here’s her note: “Because you texted me a haiku about the moon when you were drunk. Because you cried at the end of the movie *Die Hard* on Christmas eve. Because when I’m sick you bring me fruit, kiss me on the mouth, and hold me even though I’m gross. Because you bring me flowers for no reason, but on Valentine’s Day you gave me a bouquet of Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups. Because every time I show you a poem I love you’ve read it already.”

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): I’ve adopted some lines from poet Walt Whitman for you to use in composing a love note. Send it to a person you know and love, or to a person you want to know and love, or a person you will know and love in the future. Here it is: “We are oaks growing in the openings side by side. We are two fishes swimming together. We are two predatory hawks, soaring above and looking down. We are two clouds driving overhead. We are seas mingling, two cheerful waves rolling over each other. We are snow, rain, cold, darkness. We circle and circle till arriving home again, voiding all but freedom and our own joy.”

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): “To heal is to touch with love that which was previously touched by fear,” wrote author Stephen Levine. I propose you make this theme a keynote for your best relationships in the coming days. What can you do to alleviate the anxiety and agitation of the people you care for? How might they do the same for you? If you play along with the cosmic rhythms, you will have extraordinary power to chase away fear with love.

Homework: How has the pandemic changed your approach to getting and giving love? How have the restrictions on our ability to mingle with each other altered the ways you seek intimacy? FreeWillAstrology.com

Go to RealAstrology.com

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classifieds

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of ENIS PEEL THOMPSON, Deceased. No. 20PB08757 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice is hereby given that Robert J. Peel has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at: Robert J. Peel, C/O Lynn Shepard, Attorney at Law, 66 Club Road 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published: 01/28/21. /s/ Robert J. Peel, Personal Representative. Lynn Shepard, Attorney for Personal Representative, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401, (541)485-3222

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY, Probate Department. In the Matter of the Estate of Leah Nettie McElhane, deceased, Case No. 20PB08571 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative in care of his attorney, Bret Lubic, Attorney at Law, 2416 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the probate proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. /s/ Daniel Dale McElhane, Personal Representative.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE - PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of: BRUCE RAY LARRABEE, Deceased. Case No. 20PB07902 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVE that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative

of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of Scott Howard, Kivel & Howard LLP, 1530 SW Taylor Street, Portland, OR 97205-1819, Tel: (503) 796-0909; Fax: (503) 802-4257; within four (4) months of the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published January 28, 2021. By: s/ Gloria Nordyke

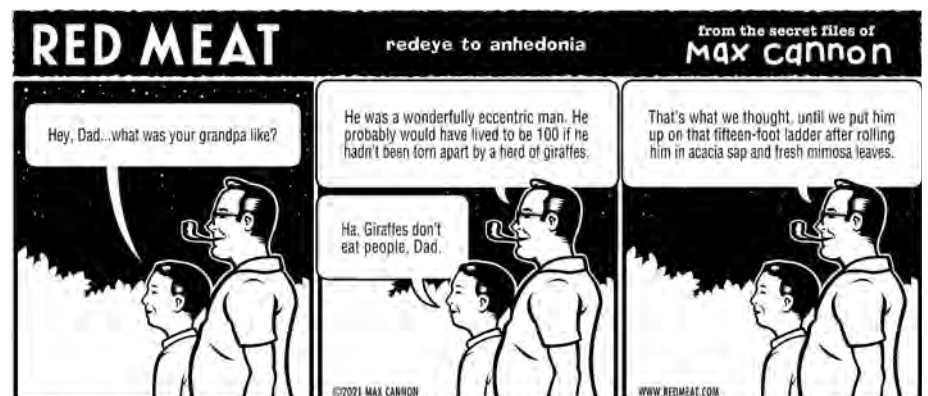
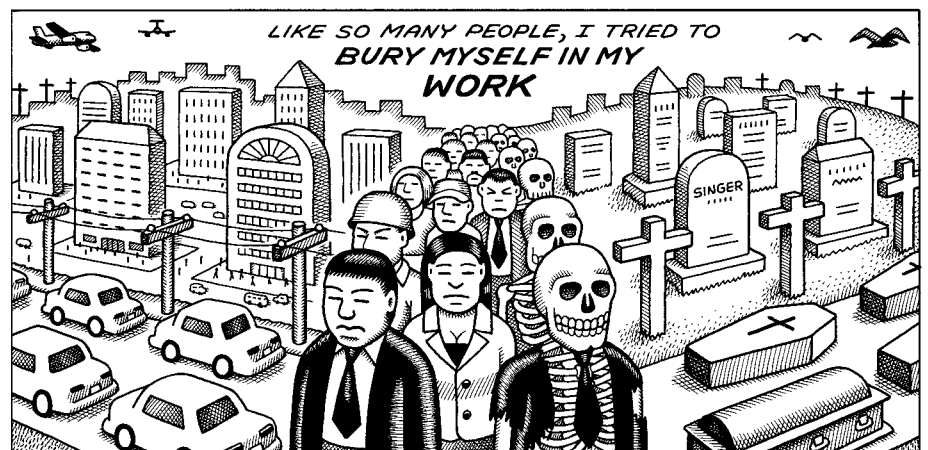
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE - PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of RICHARD L.T. WILLIAMS, Deceased. Case No. 21PB00467 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of Scott Howard, Kivel & Howard LLP, 1530 SW Taylor Street, Portland, OR 97205-1819, Tel: (503) 796-0909; Fax: (503) 802-4757; within four (4) months of the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published January 28, 2021. By: s/ Mary Leistikow

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE Probate Department Case No. 21PB00450 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS In the Matter of the ESTATE OF DONNA J. YOSS, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that MONICA YOSS has been appointed as Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney for Personal Representative at 5 Centerpointe Dr, Ste 400, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035 within four months after the date of first publication of this notice,

or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, Personal Representative or the attorney for Personal Representative. /s/ MONICA YOSS, Personal Representative. Michael J. Rose, OSB #144194, Attorney for Personal Representative, 5 Centerpointe Dr. Ste. 400, Lake Oswego OR 97035. DATED and first published: January 28, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brian J. Kirtley has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Richard Joe Kirtley, deceased, in Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 21PB00561. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative c/o Tami S.P. Beach, 1184 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Date of first publication: 02/04/21. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Brian J. Kirtley, 56145 307th Lane, Cambridge, IA 50046. ATTORNEY FOR PERS. REP.: Tami S.P. Beach, 1184 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401

NOTICE OF SEIZURE FOR FORFEITURE NOTICE TO POTENTIAL CLAIMANT(S) AND TO ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. These judgements will vest all rights, title and interest in property to The City of Eugene. Said property is described below. Those who believe they may have a valid ownership interest or security interest may contact the seizing agency. You must “claim” an interest in the below described seized property or you will automatically lose an interest you may have. To claim you must contact the seizing agency listed below and file a legal paper called a “claim”. The claim must be given to the agency contact within 21 days of the last publication of this notice. The claim must include: 1) your true name 2) your current and future mailing address 3) a statement that the claimant has an interest in the seized property.



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The claim must be in the proper form and be signed by you on oath under penalty of perjury. To file a claim or for more information: Lisa Magnus, City of Eugene Police Department 300 Country Club Road, Eugene, OR 97401 (541)682-2804. Seizing Agency: Eugene Police Department, 300 Country Club Road, Eugene, OR 97401, (541)682-5131. Summary Statement of Facts: Case No. EPD 21-01059. On or about 01/20/21; approximately \$11,100.00 in US Currency was seized for criminal forfeiture by the Eugene Police Department from Christopher William Gress. The property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to ORS 131.500-131.600 as proceeds and/or instrumentalities used in the following prohibited conduct and/or the conspiracy to commit the following prohibited conduct: Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine. Forfeiture means that the property will be transferred to the government and persons with any interest in the property will be deprived of that interest without compensation due to the use or acquisition of the property in or through the state prohibited conduct (ORS).

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF ANNE LOUISE MONTGOMERY LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 21PB00943. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Personal Representative Amianne DeLong, c/o Janice L. Mackey, Hutchinson Cox, PO Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 02/11/21.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. ESTATE OF AKIKO K. ODA, LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 21 PB 00876. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the undersigned personal representative at Randall Y. S. Ching c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published February 11, 2021. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Russell Y. S. Ching, 99-761 Holoai Street, Alea, Hawaii 96701. ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER/PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401-2459. 541-393-6720/541.344-7487 FAX, mark@williams-law.com

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate administration proceedings in the Estate of Carol Ann Jones, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 21PB00329, and Gina Salt has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 4th day of February, 2021.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate proceedings in the Estate of Janice B. Draper, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 21PB00738, and Kimberly D. Zemek has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 4th day of February, 2021.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE GAIL HEIDE. LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 20PB08854. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jessica DeMoss, Oregon Community Credit Union, has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Charlotte Gail Heide. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Personal Representative, c/o Janice L. Mackey, PO Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 02/04/21.

SAVAGE LOVE

Toy Boy
BY DAN SAVAGE



I'm positive you've written something about this in the past. I have searched your archives, but have only managed to find people arguing in the comments about this topic when what I want is your advice. My 16-year-old son is stealing our sex toys. My son took my husband's handheld toy several months ago. I found it where it shouldn't have been and let my husband know. He talked to our son and told him these are personal items, like a toothbrush, and that he needed to stop taking them. A few weeks ago I noticed my dildo was missing. I thought I had misplaced it or that my husband hid it somewhere. As it turns out, our son took it. We talked with him again and stressed that these are personal items and not something to be shared. I want to get him his own toy so he stops taking ours. My husband is squicked out about it, and I agree it's weird to have your parents buy a toy for you but he clearly wants one. I don't want to pick it out. I want to give him a prepaid gift card and have him pick out what he wants from the website of a reputable shop. Is there a better way to handle this?

— Mama In Houston

Teenagers. Going into their rooms for even a second — even just to leave clean and folded laundry on their beds — is an unforgiveable invasion of their privacy, a world-historical crime on a par with the Nazi invasion of Poland, an atrocity that should land mom and dad in a cell in the Hague. But that same kid will tear their parents' bedroom apart looking for mom and dad's sex toys, any cash mom and dad have at home, mom and dad's secret stash of pot, etc. Because while they're entitled to absolute privacy, mom and dad — or dad and dad or mom and mom — aren't entitled to any privacy at all. (And your son may never forgive you for the embarrassment you caused him when you asked him not to steal — *and not to use* — your dildo.)

How do you handle this?

You could forbid him to go into your bedroom. You could even put a lock on your bedroom door. But you'll forget to lock it one day or one day he'll learn to pick the lock, and before you know it he'll be back in your bedroom picking through your sex toys.

You could run out the clock. Your son is 16 years old and he'll hopefully be out of the house in less time than it took to get him out of diapers. Twenty-four short months, hundreds of millions of COVID vaccinations, and a few college applications are all that stand between you and having your house all to yourselves again. At that point you and your husband won't have to worry about your son stealing your sex toys — hell, at that point you can make a lovely centerpiece out of them for the dining room table. But while running out the clock allows you to avoid some quickness, you're still gonna have to worry about him swiping your sex toys or — even worse — swiping one, using it, and then putting it back without cleaning it properly. Most 16-year-old boys can't clean themselves properly; the odds that your son is capable of sterilizing your dildo after using it on himself are very, very low. (The odds that your son can make you wanna jump in a time machine and go back 17 years and sterilize yourself? Very, very high.)

You could buy him some sex toys. I think this is the best option. Get your son a gift card that he can blow on some toys for himself at a reputable sex toy shop. Or you could pick out a few for him — you already have a pretty good handle on the type of sex toys he finds appealing — and leave those toys for him on his bed next to his clean and folded laundry. Having a few sex toys of his own won't necessarily stop him from tearing your bedroom apart — there's still your pot and cash to find — but it will make him less likely to tear your bedroom apart looking sex toys. And perhaps most importantly, buying your son some sex toys will allow you to suspend your disbelief and pretend your son isn't looking through your sex toys long enough to help him fill out those college applications.

A few weeks ago in your column, you were responding to a guy who was unsure about his relationship because his boyfriend's kinks didn't match up with his own. You said that kinks are "hard-wired" and that, for someone who has them, acting on their kinks is necessary for them to have a fulfilling sex life. Wow. That leapt off the page at me. This is something I've struggled with most of my life and that made things so crystal clear. From the time I was first sexually aware, I knew I was gay and that I was attracted to BDSM. I am five years out of a twenty-year relationship. My partner and I dabbled in BDSM, but I never felt like he was really into it. He was just doing it for me. When I asked what I could do for him, he'd always say "nothing." That made it even more disappointing. The relationship didn't end over his stuff, but I regret sticking with it, and an unfulfilling sex life, for so long. The kink stuff started so early for me. Hard-wired doesn't even begin to describe it. Pre-puberty I was fascinated when I saw guys getting tied up on TV, in comics and in movies. But now here I am, single and 63 years old. I haven't dated anyone since my relationship ended. I don't want to date purely vanilla people or people with kinks that aren't compatible with mine. I'm just not sure what to do. Any advice?

— I've No Clever Acronym

In the column where I described kinks as hard-wired — which they are for most people, INCA, although some folks do manage to acquire them — I didn't advise kinky people to date only other kinky people. So long as a kinky person isn't 1. being shamed and 2. is allowed to enjoy their kinks with others who share them, a mixed kink/vanilla relationship can work. So don't limit yourself to dating only guys who are into BDSM. Date vanilla guys you meet through mainstream dating apps but be open about your kinks from the start and be clear about your intent to enjoy your kinks with guys who share them. And date kinky guys you meet on kink dating apps — there are plenty of guys your age on Recon, the biggest personals site for kinky gay and bi men, and guys of all ages who are into guys your age. Good luck.

Gay boy here with a new boyfriend. We've been together for almost two months and I TOLD HIM that I want an open relationship but I AM NOT comfortable with him dating other men. I MADE THAT CLEAR. A week ago he oh-so-casually drops that he's been meeting up with a guy for EIGHT FUCKING YEARS! I told him he had to STOP this, but he REFUSES to stop it. He says they aren't "dating" so he didn't betray me. I looked at their text messages — GOING BACK YEARS — and this guy will send him a message once every few months and my boyfriend hurries over to his house to blow him. My boyfriend thinks it shouldn't matter that he's "servicing" this one other person since we both fuck around. My problem is the "ONE OTHER PERSON" part of the equation! I am NOT interested in monogamy but I am STRONGLY opposed to MY BOYFRIEND having an ONGOING THING with another man! If our ages matter: I am in my mid-twenties and VGL, my boyfriend is in his mid-thirties and VGL, and this guy is in his LATE forties and TOTALLY AVERAGE LOOKING. I do not see why my boyfriend won't GIVE UP this man for me.

— Really Angry Guy Into No Games

I can almost see why your boyfriend wouldn't want to give up this guy for you, RAGING. I mean, if I squirt I can almost make it out...

Look, your boyfriend has been servicing this guy for almost a decade. If they wanted to date, they'd be dating. If they wanted to be together, they'd be together. And if you force your boyfriend to choose between the DEMANDING INSECURE CAPS BOY he's known for a little less than two months — that would be you — and the guy he's been servicing for a little less than a decade, you're going to lose. If you wanna be with your VGL boyfriend, RAGING, offer to grandfather the average guy in, i.e. agree to him continuing to service this impossibly old fart on the condition that your boyfriend doesn't add any new "regulars" to his rotation. But the off chance your boyfriend also reads my column: OMG, DUDE, RUN.

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